

MEDIA PROCESSING SYSTEM COMMUNICATING ACTIVITY  
INFORMATION TO SUPPORT USER INTERACTION DURING MEDIA  
BROADCASTS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[87] A system and methods for communicating activity information to support user interaction during media broadcasts in a media exchange network are disclosed. In an embodiment of the present invention, a first user may associate a second user with particular media characteristics. Media characteristics may comprise, for example, subject and title keywords, a media channel type, a mode, a genre, an artist, a time period, and a language. The second user may be notified when the first user consumes media having pre-defined characteristics matching those associated with the second user. The second user may keep records of the consumption of media with particular media characteristics, and may provide services or incentives to the first user. A system in accordance with various aspects of the present invention may comprise a first and a second set top box, each having storage with an associated network address. A user of the second set top box may have at least one associated media characteristic, and the second user may be sent a notification when the first user requests media with pre-defined characteristics matching the media characteristic associated with the second user.